

# NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN.

VOL. IV.—NO. 22.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1873

(\$2.50 a year in advance.  
5 Copies for \$10.)

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guaranteed to be of the highest order.  
Letter from Paris.  
Paris, May 12, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.  
At no time during my residence here has  
the Haytian Colony been so flourishing as at  
the present moment. Some of the wealthiest  
families of the Island are permanently located  
here, at the head of which stands, of course,  
His Excellency Mr. Laguerre, Haytian  
Charge, a most worthy representative, to-  
gether with his mother and sister, most  
remarkably refined ladies; next on the list  
is the name of Mr. Joseph Vesna, who not  
only nobly represents the Colony in wealth,  
but also in having one of the most charming  
families that can be met with here.  
I was present at an evening reception  
given by Mr. and Mrs. Vesna in honor of  
their youngest daughter, one of the spright-  
liest and most charming young ladies I  
have ever met to meet in any society, who  
has just been united in marriage to the son  
of His Excellency Mr. Villaret, a councillor  
and Director of Customs in Berlin, and who  
seems to be, as far as I had an opportunity  
of judging, very talented, and of a noble,  
generous disposition. I also met here, who  
I think figures next, the family of General  
Barthe, which consists of his wife and two  
very beautiful daughters, fair, well educated,  
very much remarked, and highly esteemed by  
the Colony generally.  
Whatever troubles may be continually  
occurring in Hayti, they certainly are not  
felt by its people here; they visit with any  
other colony represented here, as far as cul-  
ture, in many instances wealth, and cer-  
tainly in hospitality the most noble and gen-  
erous. Their sons carry of the highest col-  
legiate honors, and I was very much aston-  
ished to meet at the reception of Madame  
Vesna so many of the younger representa-  
tives of the Colony speaking English with  
the utmost fluency, and preferring to con-  
verse with me in my own language.  
To refer again to the reception, I must  
here say I felt truly grateful for the  
opportunity offered me by the Vesna family  
of seeing reunited so many worthy repre-  
sentatives of both sexes of a country whose po-  
litical and progress I am daily noting for a  
future work at no distant day; and more  
particularly as the invitation was extended to  
me in spite of some little prejudices, which  
to name might throw a cloud over the other-  
wise agreeably spent evening; consequently  
I abstain.  
Living a strictly retired life here, and de-  
voting what spare time I have to pursuits  
more serious, I consequently have little or  
no taste for society, and have not made much  
effort in that way except in very rare in-  
stances, and then it has always been in  
favor of some prominent resident here from  
the Island, whose history I had heard, and  
was anxious to judge from my own point of  
view, and in most instances the first advances  
have been made to me.  
My sensibilities are too brittle, and I have  
too much respect for those of others, con-  
sequently I seldom venture far out of my room,  
and when I do it is in the most cautious and  
prudent manner, and nowhere is caution and  
prudence more absolutely necessary than it  
is when one enters the limits of Haytian  
society in Paris.  
Their connections with European families  
are numerous, and in some instances of such  
a nature as to subject one to very annoying  
criticisms unless one's position is pretty thor-  
oughly defined. Of course I speak as an  
American, taking it for granted that our  
countrymen are not generally much liked or  
sought after, as I have never met with any  
of them, white or colored, at any of the re-  
ceptions I have been invited to.  
DAVID T. S. FULTON.

## Letter from Virginia.

Memorial in Virginia. Addressed to  
Colored Baptists. Ministers Expected Therefrom  
Simply Because They are Colored.

Petersburg, Va., May 20, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

The Baptists of Virginia are holding a  
Memorial Anniversary in Richmond, in com-  
memoration of the half century's existence of  
this general association. They are also en-  
deavoring to raise an endowment fund for the  
Richmond College.

All Baptists from every State of the Union,  
or any country of the world, were invited to  
attend. Thursday, the 27th, was the grand  
day, in the Tabernacle on the college campus.  
Historical addresses to be delivered by Dr. A.  
Curry and Teter. Being Baptists and in ac-  
cordance to public invitations, we went to hear  
the addresses and behold the concourse. We  
entered the Tabernacle and took seats in an  
empty space near the front door. We made  
no efforts to mix with the crowd sitting near  
to the speakers' stand, or to occupy a seat  
among the delegates, but to the contrary, to  
make ourselves as unobtrusive as we pos-  
sibly could. While listening to Dr. Curry's  
address a policeman approached us and in-  
formed us that we would have to retire. We  
asked why, because we were colored? He said  
yes; that he had orders to admit no colored  
persons into the Tabernacle. We asked him  
if the memorial committee gave the order.  
He said that he did not know; that the  
users had called him to execute upon us the  
order of the committee. We told him that  
we were Baptist ministers, but it availed  
nothing, we had to leave.

In Dr. Curry's address, he dwelt upon  
Roman intolerance, and pictured the persecu-  
tions and martyrdom of the early Baptists.  
He showed the lock of the jail in which a  
Baptist minister was incarcerated for preach-  
ing the gospel, in the seventeenth century.  
Other relics of the persecutors of their Bap-  
tist fathers were shown; while on the same  
day of May, 1873, in the light of religious  
liberty, three Baptist ministers are marched  
out of a Baptist Tabernacle because they were  
men of color.

We are told that the freedmen should have  
educated preachers, and opportunity should  
be presented to their preachers to obtain in-  
formation. We thought such was a splendid  
opportunity. Yours,  
HENRY DECKERSHOE,  
Pastor Third Baptist Church.  
EPHRAIM RYALLS,  
Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.  
HENRY WILLIAMS, Jr.,  
Pastor of Guilford Baptist Church.

## Letter from Our Cincinnati Correspondent.

CINCINNATI, May 21, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

The continual struggle for a precarious  
existence, and the disagreeable fact that the  
churches are under the mortifying necessity  
of calling upon public institutions, not endowed,  
in seeking charity from those they denomi-  
nate sinners, induced some of the more  
thoughtful members to meet privately at  
stated times for two months past to discuss  
the feasibility and originate a plan by which  
the several churches of each denomination in  
this city may be prevailed upon to consoli-  
date and form a single body under one pastor,  
and thereby place themselves upon an in-  
dependent financial footing.

There are seven or eight Baptist and five  
or six Methodist churches within our corpo-  
rate limits, and visit what one you will, you  
can never escape the importunities of a  
licensed representative of an impecunious  
organization which it regrets to ask as it should  
not, where of how your money was obtained.  
Besides this, the unfashionable little churches  
keep their subscription books perpetually in  
the hands of certain members for periodic  
visitations of those "given over to the devil,"  
like your correspondent, who rarely worships  
with them, and whom they esteem it an  
special pleasure to plunder. Nevertheless,  
it would be a glorious achievement for our  
churches to make themselves independent,  
when they might say, "we believe in our  
religion enough to pay for it." But, alas!  
there is too much sense involved in such a  
scheme for me to express any hope of its  
accomplishment, and the very fears of the  
parties interested that their deliberations  
may reach the ears of the ministers, whose  
bread and butter are dependent upon the  
result, many of whom know full well that  
they have answered to the "call" of another's  
name, is sufficient to indicate the result.

On the 18th instant a meeting took place  
in Allen Temple for the purpose of making a  
general collection for the benefit of our  
COLORED ORPHAN ASYLUM.

which has for several years been in straitened  
circumstances. The other churches gener-  
ously (for them) gave up their afternoon ser-  
vices, and all joined in a common effort to  
lift the burden of debt under which the insti-  
tution labored. Nearly \$400 were raised, and  
the ministers of the various denominations  
promise to give a Sunday in August to the  
same work.

Need I say that the scheme of enlisting  
their services, the manner by which it was  
obtained, and the commendable rivalry be-  
tween them to excel in the amount credited  
to their respective tables for collection, origi-  
nated entirely outside the pale of the Church.

For thirty years the asylum has been an  
institution among us—it was established in  
1843—and in that period has provided for  
thousands of homeless little outcasts.

At first and for several years there was a  
mixed board of managers, but a white mem-  
ber having contemptuously remarked that  
"the niggers were incapable of managing the  
machine alone," they concluded to try it  
anyhow, and since then the children have  
been better fed, better clothed, and better  
housed than ever before. And yet the shame-  
ful fact must be admitted that few, very few  
of our people take any interest in its success,  
or care for its maintenance, simply because  
"they do not expect to go there." Pride of  
race has been so completely obliterated from  
our general character that it may require  
generations before we can reasonably hope  
for its reclamation.

The announcement of the death of  
CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE

fell with sad and painful effect upon the  
hearts of this community. On the 19th a  
meeting was held, and the following resolu-  
tions expressing our feelings at his loss were  
passed:

Whereas it has pleased an all-wise Providence  
to remove from the cares and labors of  
this life Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Chief  
Justice of the United States; Therefore,  
Be it

Resolved, That while we bow in humble  
submission to the will of Him who doeth all  
things well, we feel that truth has lost an  
advocate, humanity a friend, the down-  
trodden and oppressed an uncompromising  
defender, and the cause of justice and right-  
eousness a great exponent.

Resolved, That we are under peculiar obli-  
gations to honor and revere the memory of  
him who dared incur the odium of the com-  
munity battling for the cause of the slave;  
for his successful efforts to expunge the black  
laws from the statutes of Ohio; for securing  
the embodiment of the principles of emancipa-  
tion in the policy and subsequently the  
platform of the Republican party.

Resolved, That while we are pained and  
sorrow-stricken at the sudden loss of one for  
whom we have many reasons to cherish as a  
firm friend and honest upright man, we will  
continue to rely upon and trust in the good-  
ness of God, who has a compensation for all  
the evils and misfortunes incident to this  
life.

You can imagine our regret for the in-  
justice done him in your editorial on  
"WHITENESS THE DEAD,"

when we remembered how, in his early days,  
when there was all to lose and nothing to  
gain by such a course, he unselfishly perilled  
his prospects for political preferment—the  
line of his ambition—defending our cause;  
how the finger of scorn was pointed at him  
for daring to defend Marijaret, a slave, in  
1835; how, in the famous case of Watson  
and Hoppes, (1845), he collared an officer of  
the court and held him to prevent the spring-  
ing of his client to Kentucky, while certain  
legal papers were being made out; how he  
nobly defended Rosetta in 1854, for which  
the colored people of this city presented him  
a silver pitcher; how, in 1855, when a can-  
didate for Governor, he labored, on the eve  
of the election, the speech made upon that  
occasion, when taunted by the Democratic  
journalists, and when his election apparently  
depended upon a retraction of it; how, in  
1846, he founded the "Liberty" party; in  
1848 the "Free-soilers"; and in 1850 the  
Republican party; how, in 1849, when the  
balance of power in the Ohio Legislature was  
in his hands, the leader of the Free-soilers,  
he bargained with the Democrats for his  
election to the Senate, the wiping out of the  
"black laws" of Ohio, and the establishment of  
free schools for colored youth, and gave them  
in consideration all the offices in the State;  
how he mingled with and aided such men as

Samuel Lewis, Gamaliel Bailey, Hiram Gil-  
more, John Joliffe, and J. O. Birney; how  
he was the genius which planned three or  
four parties, and his leading force in the  
powers which executed their purposes; how  
he stepped from the contracting platform of  
one to the expanding platform of another as  
circumstances dictated, carrying with himself  
his great principles of righteousness, jus-  
tice, and humanity to all God's creatures,  
without regard to country, race, or religion;  
how generously he gave to every charitable  
object when he could afford it; how he  
individually paid for legal papers when time  
was valuable in the cause of a slave; and  
when we remember, as we do, that that  
pitcher, worth, perhaps, seventy-five—possi-  
bly a hundred dollars—had to pay for all,  
you cannot wonder that we are pained, aye,  
deeply pained, at your injustice.

Surely you knew little of the man, less of  
his life, or you would not have shown so  
much ingratitude.

I feel safe to venture the remark that had  
Mr. Chase received a nomination from any  
party for the Presidency, the colored men of  
Ohio would have voted for him. He is  
enshrined in our hearts, and needs no monu-  
ment to perpetuate his memory.

## THE NEW SCHOOL LAW

goes into effect at once, and it seems difficult  
to determine whether at the end of next  
month the colored board shall resign control  
into the hands of the whites or not. By the  
last clause in the bill certain districts hold  
over under present management until May,  
1874, and the opinion of the city solicitor is  
required to determine whether our colored  
schools are legally separate districts. Other  
attorneys agree that they are. If they are  
not, it puzzles me to comprehend what they  
are. If his opinion agrees with ours, the  
board now governing will proceed to reflect  
themselves and manage things until next  
year.

## CONVENTION.

Some time in August the prominent and  
representative colored men of the State will  
hold a private meeting to agree upon a policy  
and plan the future circumstances which  
shall direct and govern their political action.

Heretofore we have been such a heterogeneous,  
segregated mass of supporters of the Repub-  
lican party, without regard to any conditions  
of fealty, that in this State, at least, they  
already begin to look upon us much as the  
old masters who "bought us body and soul."

We know that much of our safety depends  
upon the retention of that party in power,  
and while for the present we have no par-  
ticular designs against it, we do not propose  
to lick the hand which strikes or to fondle  
the foot that kicks us. We desire to culti-  
vate a wholesome fear, and as a sequence  
hope to establish a fair respect for the fifteen  
or twenty thousand colored votes of this  
State. The recent decision in the "Slaughter-  
house" case has alarmed some of our think-  
ing men, and they fear for the rights which  
may be denied them, such as gaining a "legal  
residence" when they emigrate, &c.

The time and place for the convention has  
been agreed upon, but as they do not desire  
the aid of wire-pulling politicians, or to be  
bored in advance with their suggestions, I  
am forbidden to divulge either.

It seems a remarkable circumstance that  
the white politicians and office holders rarely  
or never know who are the real leaders or  
representative men among us. All that they  
require to respect one as a power, is that  
some newspaper shall ridicule him into noto-  
riety or blackguard him into prominence. In  
this city, I think I am safe in saying that the  
esteem of politicians for colored men is as  
the square of an inverse proportion to their  
merits. The less influence and the more  
"brass" the higher is one rated.

## GOSPEL.

A young friend of mine recently took it  
into his head to ventilate in society the criti-  
cisms he had read lately of George Elliott,  
illustrating them with such passages from her  
writings as occurred to him on the moment.  
Being esteemed for his intelligence and cul-  
ture, society at once rushed into the myste-  
ries and miseries of Arthur Dorrit, Hetty,  
and Adam Bede, and all conversations are  
garmented with sentiments found in "The  
Mill on Floss," "Adam Bede," "Romola,"  
"Middlemarch," &c. Having recorded some  
of its ridiculous traits, I feel it my duty, as an  
impartial historian, to give you some of its  
commendable actions. If my friend would  
only continue his good work until our young  
ladies were prevailed upon to discontinue the  
habit of wasting time upon the trash Mrs.  
Southworth expressed herself ashamed of  
having thrown out into the world, he will  
have accomplished much. And yet, I fear  
that society will at once discard Mrs. Lewes  
for no better reason than that I commend its  
action. However, anything for a rest from  
the love troubles of an imaginary victim.  
My own (shall I blush here) are real, and  
quite enough for DEVOU.

## Letter from Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, June 2, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

Seeing that your columns have already  
been opened to the consideration of the late  
difficulty between the Woman's Centennial  
Committee and the colored ladies of this  
city, a fuller account of the affair may be  
interesting to your readers.

A few months ago a member of this com-  
mittee solicited me to introduce among them  
a colored element to cooperate in centennial  
work. She stated very plainly at that time  
that as American women had been asked to  
come forward and aid in the patriotic work,  
such women should not be confined to any  
particular class or clique, but must be com-  
posed of the women of the land, and whose  
fitness for physical or mental labor must be  
the only consideration. Not knowing where to  
find such an element, they applied to me  
as before mentioned. I did not permit my-  
self to be guided in the selection by a choice  
of friends, neither did I form an estimate of  
my own upon the solidity of intelligence;  
but in duty bound, I attempted to make the  
thirty-five names which I presented a repre-  
sentation of every grade of respectable  
society. Those agreed upon met the execu-  
tive committee together with myself as  
chairman, so appointed by said committee.  
After receiving directions, we found that we

## COMMUNICATIONS.

The New National Era does not hold itself responsible  
for views expressed by correspondents. Well written and  
interesting communications will be gladly received.

## Elk University Jubilee Singers.

We make the following extract from a private  
letter to Hon. Lewis H. Douglass, and  
elsewhere we publish comments of a couple  
of London papers upon the Jubilee Singers:  
17 ST. AVERY'S ROAD,  
UPPER NORWOOD,  
May 14, 1873.

DEAR FRIEND DOUGLASS: I hope this  
letter may remind you of the Jubilee Singers  
who are now operating in a foreign land.  
We sailed from Boston, Massachusetts, April  
12, 1873, at 9 o'clock A. M.; arrived in Liver-  
pool after a pleasant voyage of eleven  
days and eleven hours, April 23, at 5 o'clock  
P. M. On arriving at Liverpool we went to  
the Northwestern Hotel, and were accom-  
modated, without previous arrangements, in  
the most pleasant manner, and in other passengers  
who were several shades whiter on the outside  
than ourselves. We were not assigned to  
separate apartments from the whites, as  
when at the St. James of your city, where  
we paid first-class fare for second-class fare.  
We remained in Liverpool only one night,  
and took the morning train for London, from  
there to Upper Norwood, where we are now  
comfortably located. Of course we are quite  
unfamiliar in England, and are often stared  
at and followed around by idle boys and  
girls on the streets. The railroad travel is  
not so good as in America, but quite con-  
venient and comfortable; they have no palace  
cars. I have seen no coaches like ours, but  
little cabs which they call carriages, first,  
second, and third-class, and you can ride in  
any of the three that you are able to pay for.  
They have a saying here something to this  
effect: "None ride in the first-class car-  
riages but kings, fools, and Americans." The  
first and second-class carriages are  
uncomfortable and carpeted, but the third are  
not, but they are patronized by very respect-  
able persons, and sometimes by Americans.

I have sent you in this mail some London  
papers, which will tell you a little about us,  
and which, perhaps, you may reproduce in  
your valuable paper for the information of  
its readers, many of whom I know to be  
interested in our work. We gave our first  
concert, at Willis' Rooms, St. James,  
London, Tuesday, May 6, at which the  
Earl of Shaftesbury presided. He issued  
the invitations to about six hundred of his  
friends, who assembled on that occasion to  
welcome us. Among them were the best  
people of Europe, such as the Duke and  
Duchess of Argyll, Lord and Lady North-  
umberland, Dean and Lady Stanley, and a  
host of others. After the entertainment  
many of these good people, and all of the  
above-named persons, came to us and ex-  
pressed thanks for the pleasure we had  
afforded them, and the Duke of Argyll invited  
us to visit him the next day, which we did.  
After being received at "Argyll Lodge" and  
refreshed, we were requested to sing for the  
entertainment of the lords and ladies present,  
after which we conversed, and were passing  
the time pleasantly when the arrival of  
the Queen was announced. She did not  
appear in the room where we were, but in a  
separate apartment, with the Duke and  
Duchess. The Queen, accompanied by Prin-  
cess Beatrice, took tea, after which they  
desired to hear the Jubilee Singers, who were  
the only ones of the great company admitted  
to her royal presence. We sang to the Queen  
"Steal away to Jesus," "Go down Moses,"  
and chanted "The Lord's Prayer," for which  
she thanked us, and through the Duke said  
she was very much pleased. We retired to  
the other parlor and rejoined the company,  
and sang one more piece before parting.  
Lady Stanley invited us to visit her, and her  
husband, the Dean of Westminster Abbey,  
invited us to visit the Abbey. We accepted  
the invitations, and on the appointed day  
were received and entertained by Lady Stan-  
ley, and attended service in the Abbey, after  
which we were shown through by one of the  
canons in the absence of the Dean. We sang  
"Steal away to Jesus" at the tomb of  
"Bloody Mary," who during four years of  
her reign buried seventy Protestants annu-  
ally at the stake. We chanted the "Lord's  
Prayer" at the tomb of "Mary, Queen of  
Scots" after which we returned to our abode,  
feeling wisest for the ramble.

Your friend,  
H. M. HOLMES.

## Letter from Texas.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, May 21, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

Please give us a little more room. Texas  
shakes hands with "Union Leagues," writing  
from Fayetteville, N. C., under date of May  
9, 1873. I wrote you to nearly the same  
effect almost two months ago, viz., that the  
"Ringmasters had organized a white man's  
party inside the Republican party." This is  
so in Texas, and I dare assert, in most all  
of the other Southern States. *Mammoth* demands  
that we look this universal fact square in  
the face; and, in order to break the "Ring,"  
drop those who have organized it, or are in  
anywise connected with it. Texas is a little  
ahead of North Carolina in "official recogni-  
tion," but is more than convinced that she  
has not half the recognition her voting popu-  
lation entitles her to have. We have about  
nine colored men holding Federal positions,  
five of whom perhaps receive four dollars per  
diem, and the others, porters, from two to  
two dollars and fifty cents per diem. Our  
colored brethren in North Carolina are wiser  
than we in Texas, if we, in the face of these  
facts, cannot see the propriety of dropping  
their betrayers and going for themselves.  
They need *nerve* and "sand in their craw,"  
as they say in Houston, of this State. If  
sand is scarce, draw on us for all you want.  
There is not a Federal official in our little  
town who can get elected to a city conven-  
tion. They always drop us until election  
times, and at election times find out we have  
dropped them. This is the game of "lit for  
tat." I don't know how you do up in North  
Carolina, but that's the way we do it down  
here. We paddle our own canoe. There is  
nothing like a stiff upper lip. There will  
be more "Presidential elections," and munici-  
pal elections will never end, and warning  
politicians will ever court our strength. We  
will never enter into the field of complete  
freedom and manhood until we cease to be  
the slaves of unscrupulous politicians. Let  
us be brave and fearless. We are some  
twelve hundred in the minority in this city,  
and yet few men go into office who try to keep  
out. The trouble with us is that we are so  
cowardly (I can't call it anything else) as to  
trust our own strength, and of this the  
politicians take advantage.

I recommend to the North Carolinians  
(for whom I entertain an affectionate regard  
for private reasons) that when the men they  
complain of, and those responsible for their  
appointments, ask them to "come up to the  
help of the Lord against the mighty," that  
they tell them they have become the arch-  
itects of their own fortunes. You can very  
easily find something for your free officials to  
do, and even if you cannot, no matter; it  
is better that they starve than that you longer  
continue the spectacle of a people of your  
political wisdom and strength, like so many  
sheep, following and enriching men whose  
regard for us is the same as that of a shep-  
herd for the wool on his sheep's back, and  
whose affectionate political speeches blend  
so beautifully with the soft persuasive tones  
of a shepherd leading his sheep to the shears.  
The time has come to make new demands  
upon the leaders of the Republican party,  
and if they do not listen to us, to make new  
leaders.

The Congressional exuberance from St.  
Louis arrived last night, and had a very  
pleasant reception at the Opera House. They  
express themselves very highly pleased with  
Texas and the progress she is making in  
civilization and developing her resources.  
They are having an excursion out in the  
Gulf to-day; after which they leave for New  
Orleans. They ought to be well pleased with  
Galveston's efforts to render their visit  
pleasant. Some eighteen or twenty com-  
missioners were appointed to constantly attend  
them and show them the sights. Twelve  
States are represented, and the party num-  
bers one hundred and sixty.

## "OLYMPUS."

## Letter from Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., May 23, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

In your issue of May 16th the world is in-  
formed in a local notice that your paper "has  
at least one reader in Little Rock." In my  
opinion, the qualifying expression at least  
does not prevent the remark from conveying  
an impression which I know to be false; for  
the NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN has  
quite a respectable corps of readers, not only  
in Little Rock, but in other portions of our  
State. During the last campaign it was  
largely circulated by our Central Committee,  
and, in consequence, it found a large circle  
of acquaintance; and from what I know of  
the situation, I am inclined to think that it  
would require but a little exertion of the

right kind to give the paper a respectable,  
at least, circulation here. Perhaps it will  
be well for me to give some reason for the faith  
that is within me in reference to this matter;  
at all events I shall do so, and take the  
chances.

My father, the colored people of this country  
have certain interests peculiar to themselves  
resulting from the fact of their not having yet  
come into full and peaceful possession of all  
the rights, privileges, and immunities which  
should accompany what Charles Francis  
Adams calls the "status of citizenship." The  
courts have decided that their title is good;  
but the decrees have not been enforced, and  
much yet remains to be done before it can  
justly be claimed that the necessity for dis-  
tinctively colored organizations and colored  
newspapers have ceased to exist. The ap-  
pliances by which the colored man's energies  
were restrained in times past having been  
removed, it becomes his most sacred duty to  
use those energies to relieve himself from all  
the disabilities and evils which still remain to  
remind him of the weary days of his dis-  
franchisement. As yet comparatively a new  
recruit in the political army of the country,  
the colored man has to drill himself into the  
necessary skill in the use of the great prin-  
ciple of organized effort, by which, alone, the  
influence of his numerical strength can be  
brought to bear effectively in any direction  
for his own benefit. The power to organize  
is not a natural endowment of any race of  
men; nature implants the germ, but educa-  
tion must develop and mature the same. In  
fact, it is only by "line upon line and precept  
upon precept" that the masses of any people  
can be brought to a proper conception of the  
value of the principle. The newspaper is,  
in this country, the great drill-sergeant in the  
great work of disciplining any portion of the  
people in the work of organizing. In a sense  
of which Homer never dreamed "winged  
words" decide the motions of armies, the  
policy of governments, and the fate of na-  
tions; and to the newspaper the colored peo-  
ple of the country have to look as to one of  
the most potent instrumentalities by which  
they can relieve themselves of the political  
evils by which they are still beset.

If these views are correct, there is a neces-  
sity for the existence of a central organ, ably  
managed, appropriately located, widely cir-  
culated, and last, but by no means least,  
extensively corresponded with by leading  
colored men in all sections of the country.  
To this ideal the NEW NATIONAL ERA AND  
CITIZEN corresponds more nearly, in my  
opinion, than any other newspaper as yet  
published by colored men; and in making  
this remark, I hope I do not fail to have a  
full appreciation of the able efforts and val-  
uable services of such men as Delany, Bell,  
Anderson, Jenkins, Clark, Roudanez, Day,  
and others who may justly claim the honor  
of having been our pioneer journalists. Nei-  
ther do I overlook the claims of our jour-  
nalists of later date—Sampson, Murray,  
Warring, Turner, Cain, Liverpool, Lynch et  
al—all of whom deserve credit for what with  
their limited means and opportunities they  
accomplished.

That the NEW NATIONAL ERA AND  
CITIZEN is a better newspaper than they  
were able to send forth, is a consequence of  
better auspices, richer opportunities, more  
extended experience, and superior journal-  
istic education, and to render it this credit is  
no diminution of the honor that must ever  
attach to its predecessors. From per-  
sonal experience the writer hereof can speak  
adversely of the difficulties to be encountered  
in the past by the managers, and the result  
of that experience inclines him not to blame  
them for not doing more, but to wonder that  
they succeeded so well as they did. Their  
work was all uphill. I congratulate the NEW  
NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN first, upon its  
superior opportunities, and secondly, upon the  
excellence with it is making of the same. I can  
attest the fact that during the last campaign  
it did a noble work in this State, and was  
one of our best campaign documents. The  
happy condition of the *waiver* and *fortiter*  
in its editorial columns, the interesting cor-  
respondence, and the progressive spirit of  
improvement manifest in all its departments,  
have been viewed with pride and gratification  
by "at least one reader in Little Rock," in  
witness whereof subscribe hereto.

## Letter from Mississippi.

VICKSBURG, MISS., May 24, 1873.  
To the Editors of the New National Era and  
Citizen.

DEAR SIRS: For some time past cir-  
cumstances have thrown your paper in my way,  
and I have been reading it with constantly  
increasing interest. When I was told that  
the NEW NATIONAL ERA, a newspaper pub-  
lished at Washington, D. C., was owned,  
edited, and conducted by Frederick Douglass,  
a colored man whom I had often heard and  
read of, and whose history and services I  
had considerably respected upon, I took ad-  
vantage of the first opportunity to secure a  
copy of the paper, and, out of sheer curiosity,  
to examine, and then to read it.

In perusing the first editorial that my eye  
fell upon, it was made evident to my mind  
that the NEW NATIONAL ERA was thor-  
oughly and completely the champion of good  
order, of good government, of free institu-  
tions, of the impartial administration of jus-  
tice, and of *Republicanism generally*, and of  
the constitutional rights and privileges of the  
colored citizens of the nation particularly.

I was convinced upon reading further, that  
its arguments in favor of the universal recog-  
nition of the black man, as a man, and the  
entire colored people of the great Union, as  
a people, were most powerful and conclusive.  
And I firmly believe, to-day, that if your  
paper were regularly placed in the hands of  
the colored people of the most inveterate (and in-  
tellectual) haters and abusers of the negro and  
civil liberty, and they were, as the possibility  
of things, prevailed upon to read it carefully,  
and for the moment thrust aside their un-  
conscionable antipathy and prejudices, and to  
reflect upon its arguments, doctrines, and  
teachings, they would of necessity become  
converted, and in a short time they themselves  
would be traversing the great highway—con-  
science—which invariably leads to progress  
and the much-sought-for good of comparative  
prosperity. At least such is the belief of  
A. SOUTHERN WHITE BOY.

The procession numbered about two hun-  
dred children, and the eighteen teachers that  
belong to the Sunday school. This church,  
St. John's chapel, is not quite completed.  
Rev. J. M. Cargill is pastor. In the van of  
the procession was the superintendent of the  
school, Mr. Wright, in company with Rev.  
R. T. Kent, who was here on a visit. When  
they arrived at the grounds the merry crowd  
dispersed and sought repose in the beautiful  
grove. About 1 o'clock they were requested  
to assemble around a large stand that was